

What is Chlamydia?

Chlamydia (“Kla-mid-ee-ah”) is a serious infection of the reproductive system (sex organs) of both males and females. Chlamydia is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases (STD). You can have the infection for years and not know it. The infection can make both males and females unable to have children.

How do you get chlamydia?

You get chlamydia by having sex with an infected person. Babies can get chlamydia during birth if the mother is infected.

How do you know if you have chlamydia?

Most people don’t know they have the infection. You should see your health care provider if you notice any of the following symptoms:

Males:	pain or burning when urinating discharge from the penis (usually white or clear) pain or swelling around the testicles
Females:	abnormal vaginal discharge spotting or bleeding between menstrual periods pain in the lower part of the belly pain or burning when urinating more frequent urination pain with sex

Can chlamydia be cured?

Bacteria (germs) cause chlamydia. It can be cured with antibiotic medicine. Take all of the medication – don’t stop when your symptoms stop. Don’t share your medicine with anyone else.

How long should you wait before having sex again?

Wait at least seven days from when you start taking your medicine to have sex again.

What about your partner?

Your sex partner should be treated for chlamydia. If not, you may get the disease again and again.

How can you keep from getting chlamydia again?

- Only have sex with one partner who only has sex with you
- Use condoms every time you have sex
- Don’t have sex with someone you think may have a sexually transmitted disease

For more information, call your local health department.